

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

12

INFORMATION

TOPIC

Brass Bluegill Award

The following is for the Natural Resource Commission's review. Every year, since 1997, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Education Program and Pure Fishing co-sponsor the Brass Bluegill Award. This award honors an individual for their efforts in helping our citizens become skilled anglers and advocates of fish and fishing. This year we are recognizing Dianne Modlin, a physical education and health teacher at Ballard-Huxley School.

Dianne was first trained in *Fish Iowa!* in 1996. She helped pilot *Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs!* materials in Iowa during the 1996-97 school year. Since then, she has provided a fishing unit each spring for seventh and eighth-grade students at Ballard-Huxley. Her programs have reached more than 2,100 youth so far. Dianne spreads her enthusiasm to more than 30 teachers, naturalists, and youth leaders since 2004 by serving as a trainer for *Fish Iowa!*. Ballard-Huxley also helped pilot the *Fish Iowa Games* casting contest for schools in the spring of 2006, and Dianne helped promote the contest, sponsored by the Iowa Sports Foundation (d.b.a. Iowa Games) and the *Fish Iowa!* program, to other physical education instructors at their Nebraska/Iowa bi-state conference in November. This event has been expanded statewide this spring with over 50 schools involving more than 8,000 kids.

Ken Herring, Administrator
Conservation Recreation Division
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